## Remarks

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 5-20, and 22 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 19, 20 and 22 being independent claims.

Claims 1, 19, 20 and 22 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the original specification, and therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 19, 20 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,533,144 (Fan). The dependent claims have been variously rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Fan in combination with one of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,524 (Wu et al.), U.S. Patent No. 6,765,688 (Claiborne), U.S. Patent No. 6,285,776 (Rhoads), or U.S. Patent No. 5,216,724 (Suzuki et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

In a system for forming images, it is desirable to ensure that a user cannot form images of certain images (e.g., currency, bank notes, etc.) at will without some type of processing to prevent the formation and use of such images for improper purposes. Various methods are known for judging whether image data for which an image is to be formed represents a particular image. However, the processing required to perform this judging poses an additional processing burden on the system.

Accordingly, as recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of, if it is judged that image data has a resolution equal to or higher than a predetermined resolution and an attribute represents an image, judging whether or not the image data represents a particular image, and, if it is judged either that the image

data has a resolution less than the predetermined resolution or that the attribute does not represent an image, not judging whether or not the image data represents a particular image. With this feature, the invention of Claim 1 can ease the processing burden on the system by eliminating unnecessary judging of whether image data represents a particular image. For example, if the image data has a low resolution, it is not necessary to perform the judging even if the data represents an image. On the other hand, if the image data has an attribute other than image, such as text, it is not necessary to perform the judging even if the resolution is high.
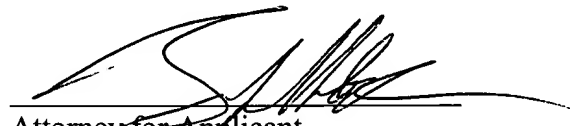
Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned feature of Claim 1. Fan discloses judging whether an input image is a particular image, e.g., a bill, by comparing it with templates ranging from a low resolution to a high resolution. If a comparison results in the conclusion that there is no match, subsequent comparisons can be omitted. However, Fan fails to disclose or suggest the feature where, if image data has a resolution equal to or higher than a predetermined resolution and an attribute represents an image, judging whether or not the image data represents a particular image and, if it is judged that either the image data has a resolution less than a predetermined resolution or that an attribute does not represent an image, not judging whether or not the image data represents the particular message. In particular, Fan does not disclose or suggest that, before beginning to judge whether or not image data represents a particular image, a judgment is made as to whether any such judging is needed based on the resolution of image data and the attribute. In the system of Fan, some particular image judging would occur in every case, whereas with the above-mentioned feature of Claim 1, all particular image judging can be omitted in particular situations.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Independent Claims 19, 20, and 22 recite similar features and are believed patentable for similar reasons. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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